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# HUSBANDRY MORALIZED;

OR,

1570/3316

## PLEASANT SUNDAY READING

FOR A

## *FARMER'S KITCHEN.*

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OR,

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*Upon the Care of* Huſbandmen *to provide for*

*WINTER.*

GOOD Huſbandmen are careful in Summer to provide for Winter. They then gather in their Winter ſtore; food and fewel for themſelves, and fodder for their cattle. "He that gathers in Summer is a wiſe Son, but he that ſleepeth in harveſt is a Son that cauſeth ſhame." Prov. x. 5.

The great beauty and advantage of any action is to do it in its proper ſeaſon. This ſeaſon is ſeldom watched for carefully, and is often loſt by delay. 'Tis an excellent proverb "that a good ſaver will make a good benefactor" this means that he, that doth not waſte, will always have ſomething to give. And there is another—"He that neglects the occaſion, the occaſion will neglect him." The huſbandman knows the ſummer will not hold the whole year, neither will he truſt to a mild and favourable winter, but in the beſt ſeaſon he will provide for the worſt.

What excellent Chriſtians ſhould we be, were we but as provident for our Souls, as we are in our Farms. 'Tis doubtleſs a point of true Chriſtian wiſdom to look forward to a day of great ſpiritual difficulties and neceſſities, and ſo during the day of grace and favour to make proviſion for it.

A Huſbandman knows there is a change of ſeaſons and weather. Tho' it be pleaſant

Summer weather now, yet Winter will tread upon the heel of Summer. Froſts, ſnows, and a great fall of rain muſt be expected. This change of ſeaſons in nature is ſettled by a firm law of the God of nature to the end of the world, for

" Nature is but the name of an effect,
" Whoſe cauſe is GOD."

While earth remaineth " ſeed time and harveſt time, cold and heat, winter and ſummer, day and night ſhall not ceaſe" ſaith the ſcripture.

And Chriſtians ſhould alſo know that there are changes in the right hand of the MOST HIGH, in regard to their ſpiritual Seaſons. If there be a ſpring time of the Goſpel, abundant opportunities, and we neglect to uſe them; there may come a barren Winter, when we may be deprived of theſe privileges. For GOD, to puniſh our deadneſs and indifference can ſend " a famine of the word" as eaſily as he can ſend a famine of bread to puniſh ſloth and lazineſs. He can always ſet one over againſt the other, and he that neglects to uſe his preſent abundant gifts " from him ſhall be taken away that which he hath." Mat. xiii. 11.

Yeſterday's paſt, to-morrow's none of thine,
THIS DAY thy heart to holy deeds incline.

In heaven there is a day of everlaſting happineſs, in hell a night of everlaſting miſery. But on this earth light and darkneſs take their turns; proſperity and adverſity, even to ſouls as well as bodies ſucceed each other.

A day of grace and ſavour is often followed by ſorrow and ſadneſs of ſpirit.

Common prudence and experience enable the huſbandman in the midſt of Summer to foreſee a Winter and provide for it before he feels it, yea inſtinct teacheth this to the very birds of the air, and beaſts of the field.

And ſpiritual wiſdom ſhould teach Chriſtians to exerciſe their foreſeeing faculties, and not ſuffer them to feell evil, before they fear it. But, Oh, the ſtupifying nature of ſin! though the ſtork in the heavens knows her appointed time, and the turtle, crane and ſwallow the time of their coming, yet man whom God hath made wiſer than the fowls of the air, in this, acts quite below them, ſo ſays the prophet Jeremiah: Jer. viii. 7. And ſo ſays our own daily experience.

The end of God's ordaining a Summer ſeaſon, and ſending warm and pleaſant weather, is to ripen the fruits of the Earth, and give the Huſbandman fit opportunity to gather them in.

And God's deſign in giving his favoured People a day of grace, is to furniſh them with an opportunity for the everlaſting happineſs and ſalvation of their Souls. "I gave her ſpace to repent." It is not merely a delay of the threatened wrath, though there be great Mercy in that; but the peculiar aim of this patience and bounty of God is toopen for them a way to eſcape the wrath to come—"Deſpiſeſt thou the riches of his goodneſs and forbearance, and long ſuffer-

ing, not knowing that the goodneſs of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Rom. ii. 4.

The huſbandman does not find all harveſt ſeaſons alike favourable; ſometimes they have much fair weather, and meet with no hindrance in their buſineſs, at other times, 'tis a catching harveſt, but now and then a fair day, and they muſt be nimble, or all is loſt.

There is alſo a great difference in the ſtate of people's minds at different ſeaſons; ſome have had long and merciful opportunities, a hundred and twenty Years did GOD's patience wait upon the World in the miniſtry of NOAH. Long did GOD wait upon the gain ſaying Iſraelites, as mentioned in Iſaiah. "I have a long time held my peace; I have been ſtill, and refrained myſelf," Iſa. xlii. 14. Others like the huſbandman have a ſhort and catching ſeaſon, all hangs upon a day, upon a nick of time. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." Acts xvii. 30.

A proper ſeaſon neglected and loſt, is never to be recovered Many things in huſbandry muſt be done in their ſeaſon, or cannot be done at all for that year. If he plow not, and ſow not, in the proper ſeaſon, he loſes the harveſt of that year. No future diligence can make up for paſt neglect; the ſeaſon, the fit opportunity is over and gone.

'Tis ſo with the ſtate of the mind: the Goſpel neglected, and opportunities deſpiſ-

ed in the ſeaſon when GOD offers them are loſt for ever. " Then ſhall they call upon me, but I will not anſwer; they ſhall ſeek me early, but they ſhall not find me: Prov. i. 28. then (that is when the opportunity is over) they ſhall call upon me but I will not hear. Oh, there is a great deal of time, in a ſhort opportunity; that may be done, or prevented in an hour rightly timed, which cannot be done, or prevented, in a Man's life time afterwards.

Thoſe Huſbandmen that are careful and laborious in the Summer, have the comfort and benefit of it in the Winter: he that then provides fewel, ſhall ſit warm in his habitation, when others blow their fingers and ſit freezing in the cold. He that provides food for his family, and fodder for his Cattle in the harveſt, ſhall eat the fruits of it, and enjoy the comfort of his labours, when others are put to ſhifts and ſtreights —And he that provides for eternity, and lays up for his Soul a good foundation againſt the time to come, ſhall eat when others are hungry, and ſing when others weep and wail and gnaſh their teeth. Therefore thus ſaith the LORD GOD, " Behold my Servants ſhall eat, but ye ſhall be hungry; behold my Servants ſhall drink, but ye ſhall be thirſty; behold my Servants ſhall rejoice, but ye ſhall be aſhamed." Iſa. lxv. 13.

A day of death will come, and that will be a day of terrors to all careleſs ſouls; but then the diligent active Chriſtian ſhall enjoy

the peace and comfort that ſhall flow in upon his heart, from his lively care, and ſincere diligence in duties.—" This is our rejoicing, the teſtimony of our conſcience that in ſincerity and godly ſimplicity, we have had our converſation in this World." 2 Cor. i, 12. Hezekiah ſays—" Remember now O Lord how I have walked before thee in truth, and with a perfect heart." 2 Kings xx. 3. A Day of Judgment will come, then fooliſh Virgins who neglect the ſeaſon of getting Oil in their Lamps, will be put to their ſhifts; then they will come to the wiſe and ſay, " Give us of your Oil." Matth. xxv. 8 but they have none to ſpare, and the ſeaſon of buying is then over.

No wiſe Huſbandman will neglect a fit opportunity of gathering in his Hay and Corn, upon a preſumption of much fair weather to come; he will not ſay the weather is ſettled, and I need not trouble myſelf, and that I may get it in another time, as well as now—no, no, a wiſe and prudent Farmer never depends on any time but the preſent.

And no wiſe Chriſtian will loſe preſent opportunities of ſtudying his Bible, upon the hopes of more time in future, but will rather ſay, now is the time, and I know not what will be hereafter." 'Tis a melancholy thing to think how ſome men as it were diſpute themſelves out of Heaven, and argue and reaſon away their own Souls, as if Satan hired them to plead againſt their own good.

It is well for Husbandmen as well as others, while they are providing food and clothes for their families against Winter, not to neglect the care of their Souls and to provide for a happy Eternity.

It is a great encouragement for Husbandmen who have families for whom it is their duty *to provide things honest in the sight of all men*, to reflect that the care of their eternal concerns is so far from being hurtful to their worldly prosperity that there is every reason to expect that he who casts his care upon GOD, and labours *to work out his salvation* will prosper more in his business than a worldly prophane man who, as he does not live in the fear of GOD, has no right to look for his blessing, without which it will be in vain to rise up early, to lie down late, and to eat the bread of carefulness.

If GOD then performs all these good things for you, how should you adore and magnify him for his care and condescension. You should say unto him, "LORD what is man that thou should'st set thine hand upon him and visit him every moment." Job vii. 18. Look then continually up to HIM whose mercies are continually poured out upon thee; for he has promised in his holy word that he will guard you and keep you day and night. Should he withdraw his hand or his eye one moment from you, that moment would be your ruin. Ten thousand evils watch for such an opportunity to rush in upon you and destroy all your comforts. But his

creatures are too dear to him to be truſted into any hand but his own.

Learn hence how diligently you are obliged to perform all the duties and ſervices of your calling, all the daily labours of your Farm for GOD, with an eye to his glory: for he performeth all things for you. It was once the wiſh of a very good man, "O that I could be to GOD what my hand is to me! that is a ſerviceable uſeful inſtrument.—Shall GOD do all things for you, and will you do nothing for GOD? Is Providence every moment at work for you, and will you be idle for him? will you labour hard for yourſelves, for your farms, for your wives and your children, and will you be idle for HIM in whom you live and move and have your being? To what purpoſe then is all that GOD has done for you? Is not the aim and deſign of all to make you a fruitful people? If GOD plant and fence, and water you by his Providence, ſure he expects you ſhould bring fruit. O that in return for all the benefits of Providence you would ſay to GOD, as grateful Eliſha ſaid to the Shunamite, "Behold thou haſt been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for THEE? 2 Kings iv. 13. And with David, What ſhall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits?" Pſalm cxvi. 12. He is ever doing you good; be you therefore always abounding in his work. O be active for that GOD who is every moment acting for you.

## THOUGHTS,

Suited to the HUSBANDMAN as he is going out to work on the Monday Morning.

NOW is the day come on, the Sun peeps over the tops of the Hills, and ſpreads light over the face of the earth, the ſhades of the Night are vaniſhed and the Beaſts of prey have laid themſelves down in their dens, man goeth forth to his work and to his labour till the evening. As the earth was covered with darkneſs before the ſun's appearing, ſo was all the Heathen World covered with the diſmal Night of ignorance, till the Sun of Righteouſneſs aroſe, and by the glorious Light of the Goſpel diſperſed that darkneſs and ſhadow of death which benighted the whole World. And what becomes man now, but to go forth to his labours, I mean the work of Religion, and the ſervice of GOD? whilſt we have the light, it is fit we ſhould walk in it, having no fellowſhip with the unfruitful works of darkneſs, but live as becomes the children of light. And this by GOD's help I reſolve to do.

To this he may add the following ſhort

PRAYER.

O GRACIOUS GOD, who haſt of thine infinite Mercy given Light to us, who ſat in darkneſs and the ſhadow of Death, grant me Grace to live in a manner anſwerable to the great advantages I enjoy, let me

not miſpend this precious time thou haſt given me, wherein to prepare for Eternity; and to that end, teach me I pray thee, to Glorify thee in the work of my hands, let every thing I do for the maintenance of this frail life, put me in mind of providing for a better. Whilſt mine Eyes look down to this Earth, let my Soul look up to thee my GOD in Heaven; whilſt I labour for this meat that periſheth, let me gain that which endureth to Eternal Life, and whilſt I work in the buſineſs of my calling, let me work out my own Salvation through Jeſus Chriſt. Bleſs, I beſeech thee, all the employments in which I ſhall this day be engaged, and grant that I may never undertake any thing upon which I cannot beg thy Bleſſing. Let me magnify thee in all I do; ſubmit to thy gracious Providence in all I ſuffer; adore thine infinite goodneſs in all I enjoy; and make it my meat and drink to do the will of my Father which is in Heaven. Mercifully forgive all my ſins through the merits of my Bleſſed Redeemer; and not only grant me thy pardon for what is paſt, but thy Grace for the time to come. All which, and every other needful Bleſſing, I humbly aſk through the Mercies of my only Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

THE

# Huſbandman's HYMN.

GOOD is the LORD, the heavenly King,
Who makes the Earth his Care,
Viſits the paſtures every Spring,
And bids the graſs appear.

The clouds, like Rivers rais'd on high,
Pour out at thy command,
Their wat'ry bleſſings from the ſky,
To cheer the thirſty land.

The ſoften'd ridges of the field,
Permit the Corn to ſpring:
The Vallies rich profuſion yield,
And the poor Lab'rers ſing.

The little hills on every ſide,
Rejoice at falling ſhow'rs:
The meadows, dreſt in all their pride,
Perfume the Air with flow'rs.

The barren clods refreſh'd with rain,
Promiſe a joyful crop:
The parched grounds look green again,
And raiſe the Reaper's hope.

The various months THY goodneſs crown:
How bounteous are THY ways!
The bleating flocks ſpread o'er the downs,
And Shepherds ſhout thy praiſe.

FINIS.

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